

The Final Word - “Faithful Through Suffering”

October 5, 2014

Revelation 2:8-11

Jesus is Coming, So Be Ready!

Greeting - Smyrna = “myrrh”

Revelation 2:8

Jesus - First and the Last who died and came to life again

Revelation 2:9-10

Praise - Enduring Suffering and Poverty

James 2:5

Criticism - NONE

Revelation 2:11

Instruction - Stay Faithful

Warning - NONE

Promise - Crown of Life and Overcoming Second Death

Revelation 20:6

Now What?

Know: Christians Will Be Persecuted

2 Timothy 3:12

Seek: Stay Faithful to God in Suffering

2 Corinthians 4:9-12, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Ask: What Am I Willing to Give for Jesus?

Luke 14:26-27

Small Group Homework

For the Week of October 5, 2014
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

QUICK REVIEW

1. Take a moment to look back over the principles from this week's sermon. If you only had 2 minutes to tell a friend about this message, what would you say?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

2. What is the most difficult thing you've trained for physically? How did you prepare for it?

What did you learn from it?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. The church in Smyrna was doing a lot of things right. But instead of a reward, Jesus tells them they will first be tested. Often times, we like to avoid tests. God tells us about how tests are used to make us more like His Son. Read the following passages of scripture and answer the corresponding questions:

James 1:2-4

According to this verse, what do trials in our lives produce?

In your opinion, why does perseverance lead to maturity in Christ?

Hebrews 12:4-11

Why is discipline so closely tied to love?

How does God's discipline prepare you for future trials?

Is there a discipline you have been avoiding?

4. Our faith in Christ is described as more precious than gold. We spend much of our lives trying to grow our wealth. What are you doing to grow your faith?

Read 1Peter 1:6-9.

God does not overlook the trials in your life. They have meaning and value. What trials have you faced?

What have you learned from those trials?

5. Even though we are tested, our joy and peace are complete in the Lord at all times. How does the following quote encourage you?:

"Peace is not the absence of a storm. It is the presence of Christ."

TAKING IT HOME

6. One of the reasons for trials and testing is to teach us to die to ourselves and be centered completely on Christ. Is there anything in your life you feel Christ is asking you to let go of?

How can your group help keep you accountable?

7. Complete the following sentence:

After reading in the Word and talking to my small group today, the Holy Spirit might be telling me...

PRAYER REQUESTS

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